Numb. 76

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Quicquid agunt Homines nostri Farrago Libelli.

From *Saturday October* 1. to *Tuesday October* 4. 1709.

From my own Apartment, October 3.

IT is a Thing very much to be lamented, that a Man muſt uſe a certain Cunning to ſpeak to People of what it is their Intereſt to avoid. All Men will allow, that it is a great and heroick Work to correct Men's Errors, and at the Price of being call'd a Common Enemy, to go on in being a Common Friend to my Fellow Subjects and Citizens. But I am forc'd in this Work to revolve the ſame Thing in Ten Thouſand Lights, and caſt 'em in as many Forms, to come at Men's Minds and Affections, in order to lead the Innocent in Safety, as well as diſappoint the Artifices of Betrayers. Since therefore I can make no Impreſſion upon the offending Side, I ſhall turn my Obſervations upon the Offended: That is to ſay, I muſt whip my Children for going into bad Company, inſtead of railing at bad Company for inſnaring my Children. The greateſt Misfortunes Men fall into, ariſe from themſelves; and that Temper, which is call'd very often, tho' with great Injuſtice, good Nature, is the Source of a numberleſs Train of Evils. For which Reaſon we are to take this as a Rule, That no Action is commendable which is not voluntary; and we have made this a Maxim, That Man who is commonly call'd good-natur'd, is hardly to be thank'd for any Thing he does, becauſe half that is acted about him, is done rather by his Sufferance than Approbation. It is generally a Lazineſs of Diſpoſition, which chuſes rather to let Things paſs the worſt Way, than go through the Pain of Examination. It muſt be confeſs'd, ſuch a one has ſo great a Benevolence in him, that he bears a Thouſand Uneaſineſſes, rather than incommode others; nay, often when he has juſt Reaſon to be offended, will rather ſit down with a ſmall Injury, than bring it into Reprehenſion, out of pure Compaſſion to the Offender. Such a Perſon has it uſually ſaid of him, He is no Man's Enemy but his own; which is in Effect ſaying, He is a Friend to every Man but himſelf and his Friends: For by a natural Conſequence of his neglecting himſelf, he either incapacitates himſelf to be another's Friend, or makes others ceaſe to be his. If I take no Care of my own Affairs, no Man that is my Friend, can take it ill if I am negligent alſo of his. This ſoft Diſpoſition, if it continues uncorrected, throws Men into a Sea of Difficulties. There is *Euphuſius*, with all the good Qualities in the World, deſerves well of no body: That univerſal Goodwill which is ſo ſtrong in him, expoſes him to the Aſſault of every Invader upon his Time, his Converſation, and his Property. His Diet is Butcher's Meat, his Wenches are in plain Pinners and *Norwich* Crapes, his Dreſs like other People, his Income great, and yet has he ſeldom a Guinea at Command. From theſe eaſy Gentlemen are collected Eſtates by Servants or Gameſters; which latter Fraternity are excuſable, when we think of this Clan, who ſeem born to be their Prey. All therefore of the Family of *Actæon* are to take Notice, That they are hereby given up to the Brethren of the *Induſtry*, with this Reſerve only, That they are to be mark'd as ſtricken Deer not for their own Sakes, but to preſerve the Herd from following them and coming within the Scent. But I am oblig'd to leave this important Subject, without telling whoſe Quarters are ſever'd, who has the Humbles, who the Haunch, and who the Legs, of the laſt Stag that was pull'd down; but this is only deferr'd in Hopes my Deer will make their Eſcape without more Admonitions or Examples, of which they have had (in mine and the Town's Opinion) too great a Plenty. I muſt, I ſay, at preſent go to other Matters of Moment.

White's Chocolate-Houſe, October 3.

The Lady has anſwer'd the Letter of Mr. *Alexander Landlord*, which was publiſh'd on *Thurſday* laſt, but in ſuch a Manner as I do not think fit to proceed in the Affair; for ſhe has plainly told him, That Love is her Deſign, but Marriage her Averſion. Bleſs me! What is this Age come to, that People can think to make a Pimp of an Aſtronomer? I ſhall not promote ſuch Deſigns, but ſhall leave her to find out her Admirer, while I ſpeak to another Caſe ſent to me by a Letter of *September* 30. ſubſcrib'd, *Lovewell Barebones*, where the Author deſires me to ſuſpend my Care of the Dead, till I have done ſomething for the Dying. His Caſe is, That the Lady he loves is ever accompanied by a Kinſwoman, one of thoſe gay cunning Women, who prevent all the Love which is not addreſs'd to themſelves. This Creature takes upon her in his Miſtreſs's Preſence to ask him, Whether Mrs *Florimel* (that is the cruel One's Name) is not very handſome; upon which he looks ſilly; then they both laugh out, and ſhe will tell him, That Mrs. *Florimel* had an equal Paſſion for him; but deſir'd him not to expect the firſt Time to be admitted in private; but that now he was at Liberty before her only who was her Friend to ſpeak his Mind, and that his Miſtreſs expected it. Upon which *Florimel* acts a Virgin-Confuſion, and with ſome Diſorder waits his Speech. Here ever follows a deep Silence; after which a loud Laugh. Mr. *Barebones* applies himſelf to me on this Occaſion. All the Advice I can give him is, to find a Lover for the Confident, for there is no other Bribe will prevail; and I ſee by her Carriage, that it is no hard Matter, for ſhe is too gay to have a particular Paſſion, or to want a general one.

Some Days ago the Town had a full Charge laid againſt my Eſſays, and printed at large. I alter'd not one Word of what he of the contrary Opinion ſaid; but have blotted ſome warm Things ſaid for me; therefore pleaſe to hear the Council for the Defendant, tho' I ſhall be ſo no otherwiſe than to take a middle Way, and, if poſſible, keep Commendations from being inſipid to Men's Taſt, or Raillery pernicious to their Characters.

Mr. Bickerſtaff, *Sept.* 30.

'AS I always looked upon Satyr as the beſt Friend to Reformation, whilſt its Laſhes 'were general; ſo that Gentleman * muſt excuſe 'me, if I do not ſee the Inconvenience of a Method he

* *See* Tatler *of* Sept. 29.

he is so much concern'd at. The Errors he assigns in it, I think, are comprized in the Desperation Men are generally drove too, when by a publick Detection they fall under the Infamy they feared; who otherwise, by checking their Bridle, might have recovered their Stumble, and through a Self-Conviction become their own Reformers: So he that was before but a clandestine Disciple, (to use his own Quotation) is now become a Doctor in Impiety. The little Success that is to be expected by these Methods from a harden'd Offender, is too evident to insist on; yet it is true, there is a great deal of Charity in this Sort of Reasoning, whilst the Effects of those Crimes extend not beyond themselves. Put what Relation has this to your Proceedings? It is not a circumstantial Guessing will serve turn, for there are more than one to pretend to any of your Characters; but there must at least be something that must amount to a nominal Description, before even common Fame can separate me from the rest of Mankind to dart at. A general Representation of an Action, either ridiculous or enormous, may make those winch who find too much Similitude in the Character with themselves to plead not guilty; but none but a Witness to the Crime can charge them with the Guilt, whilst the Indictment is general, and the Offender has the Asylum of the whole World to protect him. Here can then be no Injustice, where no one is injur'd; for 'tis themselves must appropriate the Saddle, before Scandal can ride them. Your Method then, in my Opinion, is no Way subject to the Charge brought against it; but on the contrary, I believe this Advantage is too often drawn from it, that whilst we laugh at, or detest the uncertain Subject of the Satyr, we often find something in the Error a Parallel to our selves; and being insensibly drawn to the Comparison we would get rid of, we plunge deeper into the Mire, and Shame produces that which Advice has been too weak for; and you, Sir, get Converts you never thought of. As for descending to Characters below the Dignity of Satyr, what Men think are not beneath Commission, I must assure him, I think are not beneath Reproof: For as there is as much Folly in a Ridiculous Deportment, as there is Enormity in a Criminal one, so neither the one nor the other ought to plead Exemption. The Kennel of Curs are as much Enemies to the State, as *Greg* for his Confederacy; for as this betray'd our Government, so the other does our Property, and one without the other is equally useless. As for the Act of Oblivion he so strenuously insists on, *Le Roy s'avisera* is a fashionable Answer; and for his Modus of Panegyrick, the Hint was unnecessary, where Virtue need never ask twice for her Lawrel. But as for his Reformation by Opposites, I again must ask his Pardon, if I think the Effects of these Sort of Reasonings (by the Paucity of Converts) are too great an Argument, both of their Imbecility and Unsuccessfulness, to believe it will be any better than mispending of Time, by suspending a Method that will turn more to Advantage, and which has no other Danger of losing Ground, but by Discontinuance. And as I am certain (of what he supposes) that your Lucubrations are intended for the publick Benefit, so I hope you will not give them so great an Interruption, by laying aside the only Method that can render you beneficial to Mankind, and (among others) agreeable to,

SIR,

Your humble Servant, &c.

St. James's Coffee-house, October 3.

Letters from the Camp at *Havre* of the 7th Instant, *N. S.* advise, That the Trenches were open'd before *Mons* on the 27th of the last Month, and the Approaches were carried on at Two Attacks with great Application and Success, notwithstanding the Rains which had fallen; That the Besiegers had made themselves Masters of several Redoubts, and other Outworks, and had advanc'd the Approaches within Ten Paces of the Counterscarps of the Hornwork. Lieutenant-General *Cadogan* receiv'd a slight Wound in the Neck soon after opening the Trenches.

The Enemy were throwing up Intrenchments between *Quesnoy* and *Valenciennes*, and the Chevalier *de Luxemburg* was encamp'd near *Charleroy* with a Body of 10000 Men. Advices from *Catalonia* by the Way of *Genoa* import, That Count *Staremberg* having pass'd the *Segra*, advanc'd towards *Balaguier*, which Place he took after a few Hours Resistance, and made the Garrison, consisting of Three *Spanish* Battalions, Prisoners of War. Letters from *Bern* say, That the Army under the Command of Count *Thaun* had began to repass the Mountains, and would shortly evacuate *Savoy*.

Whereas Mr. Bickerstaff *has received Intelligence, That a young Gentleman, who has taken my Discourse upon* John Partridge *and others in too literal a Sense, and is suing an elder Brother to an Ejectment; the aforesaid young Gentleman is hereby advised to drop his Action, no Man being esteem'd dead in Law, who eats and drinks, and receives his Rents.*

Advertisements.

Now in the Press,

*** **Dr. Nichols's Comment on the whole Book of** Common Prayer, in large Folio, very good Paper and Character, with the Addition of three MSS. viz. one by Bishop Andrews, another by Bishop Cosins, and a third in the Hands of Dr. Hicks, being printing, and in such Forwardness as to be ready to deliver to Subscribers by Christmas next; all those that intend to subscribe, are desired to send in their first Payment, being 5 s. and their Names to be printed, to any of the Undertakers; viz. R. Bonwick, W. Freeman, T. Goodwin, J. Walthoe, M. Wotton, S. Manship, J. Nicholson, B. Took, R. Parker, or Ralph Smith, Booksellers; where Proposals may be had, and Sheets seen how forward it is. Note, the Second Edition of the Gentleman's Recreations, in large Folio, with one half Additions, and near 100 Copper Cuts, will be deliver'd to Subscribers by the same Persons the first Day of next Term.

☞ **The Painful or Running Piles, either Outward or** Inward, which do often end in Fistula's when neglected, are cur'd in three Days Time by a pleasant specifick Electuary, at 3 s. the Gally-pot, which is sufficient for one Cure. Sold only by Mrs. Smith, who lodges at the Sun without Ludgate at the Corner of Bell-Savage-Inn, a Mercer's Shop.

This is to give Notice to all Gentlemen and Ladies, That there is lately brought over a great Parcel of very fine German Cut and Carv'd Glasses, viz. Jellies, Wine and Water Tumblers, Beer and Wine Glasses with Covers, and divers other Sorts; the like hath not been expos'd to publick Sale before. They are lotted into small Parcels, with some of every Sort, fit for a Sideboard: And will be sold by Auction on Thursday October 13th, 1709. at 5 in the Afternoon, at the Black-Boy Coffee-house in Ave-mary-Lane, one End coming into Ludgate-street, London. The Goods are to be seen at the said Coffee-house, from this Day to the Time of Sale, from 12 till 6 at Night.

*** **The Most Noble Volatile Smelling-Bottle in the World;** which smell'd to, Momentarily fetches the most dismal Fanting, or Swooning Fits, and in a Minute removes Flushings, Vapours, Dulness, Head-Ach, Megrims, &c. It takes off all Heavy Sleepiness, retards Swoonings, keeps up the Spirits to a Miracle; and by its Use admits of no Faintings, but invigorates and enlivens the whole Man, recreates and makes chearful although never so sad, and in a Moment raises all the sensitive Faculties. It's also to be taken inwardly by Drops, which effectually takes off and eradicates the very Cause; for it potently relieves, comforts, and strengthens the Brain, cicates and corroborates a Stomach, removes Sickness from it, helps Digestion, cleanses the Blood; and in a Word, is the greatest Cephalick, Stomatick, Hepatick, and powerful Aromatick possible; therefore is extream necessary for all Gentlemen, Ladies, &c. always to be carried in their Pockets. It only sold at Mr. King's, Picture-shop, in the Poultry, and at Mr. Overton's, at the Golden-Buck, Picture-shop, against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street, at 2 s. and 6. d. each, with printed Directions.

THE Famous POWDER for the STONE, GRAVEL, and STRANGURY, that has performed so many remarkable Cures in those Cases, of which there are continued Instances. Certificates whereof, together with the Names and Places of Abode of many that have been reliev'd by it, too numerous to be inserted here, are to be seen at Mr. Rogers's, Bookseller in Fleet-street. There are likewise several large Stones that it has brought away from divers Persons, to be seen at Mr. Aylmer's, Bookseller in Cornhill: At both which Places only it is to be sold, for 5 s. the Paper, which contains 3 Doses, with Directions. The Person who prepares it, is to be spoken with every Tuesday and Thursday, between 11 and 12, at Mr. Rogers's Shop above-mention'd.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where *Advertisements* are taken in.